Revolution Not Reform

For a long time in PLP's existence, our members engaged in militant action against the bosses and their agents around the immediate needs of the working class and its allies among students, pro-worker professionals and intellectuals. We tended to put communist ideas, and building the Party to make a revolution, on the back burner. After much discussion and self-criticism, we feel we made an error. We now see the absolute necssity to tie every immediate reform struggle to the need to overthrow capitalism, not merely to try to win the reform.

In the last analysis, no matter what immediate gain we wrest from the bosses, they have the state power to turn around that victory, and they do it all the time. The only way to get off this treadmill is to eliminate capitalism altogether. But that requires a strong communist party with deep roots in the working class and other exploited sections of the population. Therefore, the only real way to win in the immediate day-to-day struggles, is to build a **force for revolution – our Party.** This is the one victory that is hardest for the bosses to take away, since it is one that is committed to overthrowing them, not merely to fighting over a nickel raise.

PLACING REVOLUTIONARY IDEAS OVER reformist ones is no easy task. Capitalism is constantly attacking us every day with layoffs, wage-cuts, cutbacks in services, racism, war and fascism. We could easily expend all our energies and thoughts on how to beat them solely over the immediate issues. But that will always leave us back where we started, still with a ruling class holding state power and able to attack us in still another way the next day. It is only when we have eliminated the bosses as a class, along with their state power to enforce their existence, that we will be in a position to make immediate gains and hold them. Therefore, it is **revolutionary ideology** that must emerge from each struggle, with people won to that ideology and to PLP.

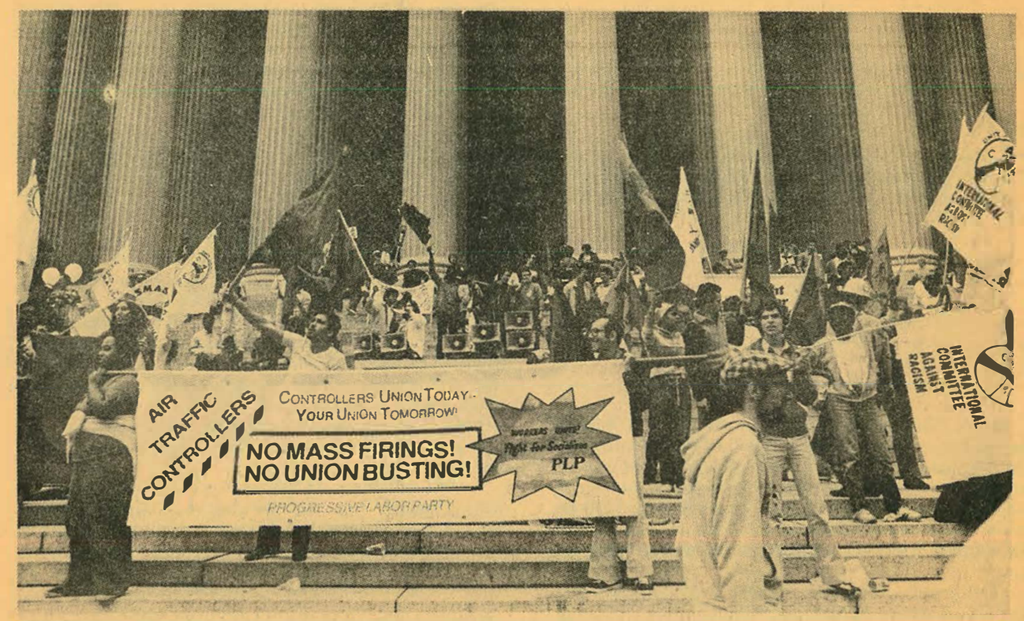
Why We March On May Day

MAY DAY IS THAT DAY IN THE YEAR WHEN the working class marshals all its forces under one flag, the red flag of communist revolution. Millions of workers around the world demonstrate for our needs and demands, especially for our commitment to overthrow capitalism and replace it with an egalitarian communist society – free of profits, bosses and exploitation.

This year the Progressive Labor Party is organizing May Day marches on May 1st in Washington, D.C., Detroit, Los Angeles, Houston and Seattle. We are marching with our brothers and sisters in the International Committee Against Racism (InCAR) who are committed to smashing racism, and uniting the working class in one mighty multi-racial bond, as a powerful weapon in the battle against the bosses' racist unemployment and racist-imperialist war plans.

Since last May Day, the U.S. capitalist economy has gone into convulsions while the U.S. bosses' foreign policy has been chopped to pieces. "Official" unemployment has passed 10% (including workers who have given up looking for non-existent jobs). Actual unemployment is probably 20 million, close to double the phony "official" figure, counting part-timers who can't get full-time work, workers on welfare, youth who have joined the army in order to eat, and so on. The jobless rate among black, Latin, Asian and Native American workers is double the figure for white workers, hovering at the depression rate of the 1930s. This is racist unemployment with a vengeance, minority workers suffering the brunt of the bosses' economic crisis. Cities like Detroit are in a depression, with one out of four on "public assistance," part of the 300,000 permanently unemployed auto workers.

1981 was the year Reagan's great promise of a "balanced budget" went out the window. The big "victory" for U.S. capitalism will be to keep the deficit under $100 billion! This was the year they tried to "declare" ketchup a vegetable as a way to cut the cost of school lunches; the year interest rates soared and new housing plummeted; the year some of the largest savings banks failed, and



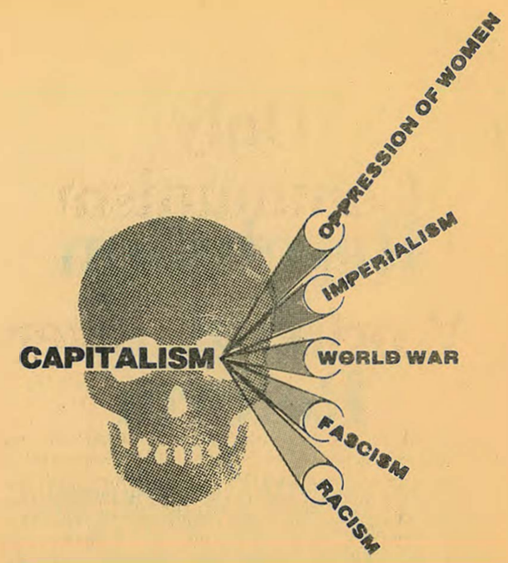
PLP demonstrates in Washington, D.C. for workers' revolution and against ruling class moves toward fascism.

class, ownership. These concessions to capitalist ways and ideas contained the seeds of the reversal of state power from the hands of the working class to a new set of state capitalist administrators who now exploit not only the workers of these two countries but of many others as well.

That is why we say organize for **communist** revolution now; eliminate **ALL** hangovers from capitalism. There can be no 100% guarantee that communist power will not be overthrown in favor of a new set of bosses. But, certainly, the fight to spread communist ideology among, and establish a communist party of tens of millions of workers, along with the fight to forge a revolution based on the elimination of **ALL** capitalist ways and ideas, is as close to a guarantee as one can get. The confidence that workers can feel for each other is far superior to the confidence workers could ever have in a Rockefeller, Kennedy or Reagan to "give" us a decent life.

After all, if we need a guarantee that communism will not be reversed, before we decide to fight for it, we are left with capitalism and the **SURE GUARANTEE** that we will continue to be exploited. There is no middle ground.

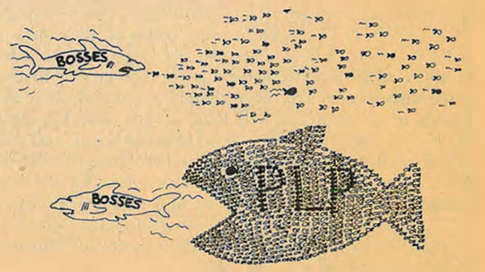
So our choice is to fight for communism and fight to make it work. We benefit from both the experiences and errors of previous revolutions (an experience that Soviet workers did not have, since they were the first), and engage in criticism and self-criticism throughout the working class, led by our Party, to insure a self-corrective process over mistakes that will surely be made.



Only Communism Can Insure Workers' Power

Is there any guarantee that revolution will not bring a new set of bosses to oppress the working class? Some point to Russia and China as examples of the inability of the working class to hold state power once they seize it. While the communists and workers of both Russia and China made great contributions to the advance of working-class emancipation from capitalism, they did not fight for communism. They viewed communism as a far-off system to be established only after a transitional phase of socialism had eliminated any chance the former ruling class had of re-gaining power.

However, we have learnt from that experience. Socialism in both Russia and China made many concessions to capitalist ideas in the name of workers holding onto state power. They continued the wage system, and used material incentives established under capitalism as the main method of winning workers to increase production. They continued many forms of small and middle-level capitalist production, using many of the former capitalists themselves to manage it, on the grounds of needing their "know-how" instead of relying on the working class. They tried to win hundreds of millions of peasants with the demand for "land" – thereby appealing to them on the basis of individual, not collective or



WHY WE NEED THE PARTY

were absorbed by still larger ones in order to save the largest commercial banks that had ties to the failing savings banks. 1981 saw U.S. auto production hit a new low and Japanese imports a new high. Truly, U.S. capitalism was passing into a state of permanent crisis.

To try to "solve" this crisis, and attempt to re-gain from its arch imperialist rivals in the U.S.S.R. part of its lost No. 1 position in the world, the U.S. ruling class moved ever closer to war. While cutting school lunches, it proposed an astronomical military budget of $1.5 trillion over the next five years. That's $6,818 for every adult and child in the U.S.! This is to build up its nuclear arsenal, even as it finds its NATO "allies" refusing to have them placed on European soil and become targets for incineration by Soviet nuclear missiles.

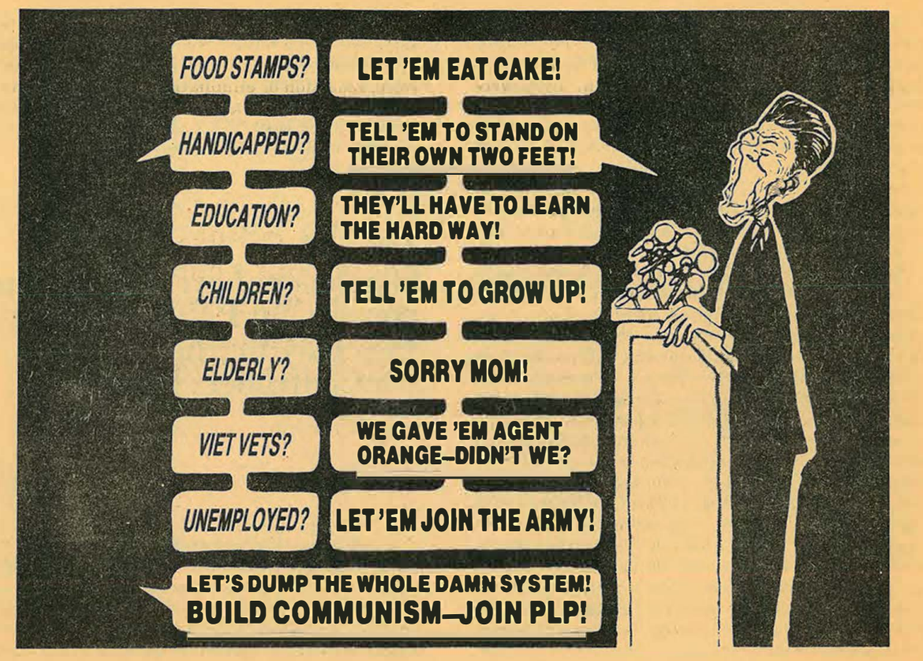
The war got closer to home as more "advisors" were sent to prop up the fascist dictatorship in El Salvador; a deal was being struck to establish a military base in Haiti, 70 miles from pro-Soviet Cuba; and more threats were made against pro-Soviet Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, an orgy of anti-communism was spewed forth in the wake of Reagan's backing of the pro-fascist "Solidarity" movement in Poland, using the fiction of "communism" in that country to "prove" that workers reject communism. U.S. bosses have about as much concern for Polish workers as they have for the air controllers union they smashed in the U.S. The only thing "Poland" proves is that Polish/Soviet capitalism doesn't work. Amid all the frenzied Reagan threats, he couldn't get his act together, giving U.S. banks $71 million to forestall a default of Poland's debt to these banks.

IT WAS TO PROTECT THIS SHAKIEST OF systems that U.S. rulers were forcing tens of thousands of working-class youth – black, Latin and white – to join the service or starve to death in the bosses' economic crisis. The economic draft was in place – spurred by 40% to 80% youth jobless rates – until the military draft got going full blast.

U.S. bosses have about as much concern for Polish workers as they have for the Air Controllers Union here.

Knowing that the working class would not take these attacks lying down (we never have), the bosses intensified their moves toward full-fledged fascism. The two most ominous signs were the establishment of concentration camp jails for Haitian and El Salvadoran immigrants and the smashing of the air controllers union.



to overthrow their bosses. Therefore, class struggle between the rising communist system and the dying capitalist system will go on for a long time. Once communism and communist state power have triumphed the world over, there will no longer be any need for force to put down counter-revolution. There will be only one class, the working class, who will administer society according to communist principles. By that time, scarcity will have been eliminated and the idea of "to each according to their need" will completely satisfy everyone.

Under communism, exploitation of workers by bosses is banned. There is no profit to be made off anyone's labor. Racism and sexism are outlawed. Those practicing them are jailed and either rehabilitated, if that's possible, or executed, depending on the nature of the crime. Racism and sexism can be abolished permanently because the profit motive that spawned them has been smashed. The working class bends all its efforts to not only insure a boss class does not rise again, but also **to aid revolutionaries in other parts of the world to also seize state power.** This is extremely important, since the bosses in other areas will look on any working-class state – no matter where – as a threat to them, and will use their state power to invade and crush any working-class state. Helping other revolutionaries and working classes is not merely a question of comradeship; it is a life-and-death question for any working class who has seized state power itself. It is in their direct self-interest to help the spread of revolution.

ONCE PROFITS AND BOSSES HAVE BEEN outlawed, the basis exists for the unlimited expansion of the fruits of mental and manual labor. Only then can people develop true equality, can there be a real flowering of working-class culture as opposed to the decadent, pornographic violence typical of capitalist culture in its death throes. With the bosses and their profit system out of the way, workers can develop a real collective spirit –

PLP will always help workers in other countries still under the heel of the profit system to overthrow their bosses.

at work, in production and distribution, in schools, in the family and among all social relations. This collective spirit, this "brotherhood" which capitalism and its religions always pay lip service to, for the first time in human history becomes a reality because the basis for individualism – the dog-eat-dog philosophy of the capitalist profit system – has been eliminated.

The immigrant workers were fleeing from fascist dictatorships, 50% jobless rates and 40¢-an-hour slave wages, all imposed by U.S. corporations and enforced by backing from their White House servant. They were herded into filthy, dank, unsanitary prisons, left to die from lack of medical care. These Nazi-style U.S. concentration camps hold these workers until such time as they can be deported to face certain death from the fascist butchers in Haiti and El Salvador. These conditions are what's in store for the whole working class unless we see this as an attack on all of us and organize a massive fight-back now.

The firing of 12,000 air controllers, the busting of their strike and the smashing of their union was the opening gun in the U.S. ruling class' warning to the whole working class: try to use your union as a union to oppose fascist repression and you, too, will be smashed. All workers should note that the air controllers are at the highest of the wage scale. By not fighting hard enough against the initial attacks by the bosses on black and Latin workers, at the lowest end of the economic ladder, the whole working class suffers.

These fascist moves have been accompanied by renewed backing for the Ku Klux Klan and Nazis and by tax breaks for racist, white-only schools, using workers' tax money to subsidize racist segregation. Registration forms are now required for school children seeking free lunches, in an attempt to freeze out undocumented immigrant workers' children, or any others who refuse to knuckle under to fascist "registration" in order to eat.

These political moves toward fascism occurred alongside numerous economic attacks: mass wage-cuts, wholesale budget cuts of vital, life-preserving social services, reduction or elimination of many benefits for the jobless – all adding up to a starve-and-freeze future for millions of workers.

'The U.S. ruling class has put out a contract on U.S. workers and Reagan and the labor sellouts are their hitmen.

The wage-cutting was led by the bosses' front man, Douglas Fraser, who heads what once was an auto *workers'* union. He opened "negotiations" with GM and Ford to give away wages, benefits and conditions that workers had fought for over the past half century. This followed the give-away of $1 billion to Chrysler, on whose Board of Directors Fraser sits. This blaming of

auto workers for the bosses' desperate problems in the declining U.S. auto industry exposes the Frasers and their ilk as the grave-diggers of the U.S. trade union movement. The "tombstone" was put in place when the whole motley crew of social fascist labor "leadership" failed to lift a finger to support the striking air controllers, allowing Reagan to smash those workers mercilessly.

The White House, not to be outdone by their labor faker errand boys, instituted massive cuts in food stamps, welfare, unemployment insurance, CETA pro-

grams, fuel subsidies to the elderly and anything else that might conceivably help workers most sharply affected by the bosses' economic crisis. These cuts are putting thousands in an early grave just as surely as if they were the victims of a bullet through the head. The U.S. ruling class has put out a contract on U.S. workers, and Reagan and the labor traitors are their hit men.

None of these attacks have occurred without opposition from the working class. The main political fightback has been led by the PLP and InCAR. We attacked and smashed the Klan from Connecticut to California,

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We Will Win!

LET'S DUMP THE WHOLE DAMN SYSTEM!

their exploiters and allows mass collective decision to determine what happens to the value produced by the working class. This requires a dictatorship of the majority over the tiny minority of former capitalists to prevent them from taking power again. Every former ruling class will make another bid for power. The only way to stop that is by force – the only language the bosses understand since they use it themselves as standard operating procedure.

A real revolution takes place when the exploited, majority working class smashes the state power of the ruling capitalist class, and erects their own working-class state power, putting arms into the hands of the working class to enforce that power. Then it becomes possible to wipe out the bosses, physically where necessary, and take over all of the means of production.

History shows that no ruling class ever gave up its power peacefully or willingly.

Given the seizure of state power by millions of workers in a communist party, supported by millions of other workers, around the ideas expressed in this pamphlet, the chance of the former ruling class, along with its ideas, regaining power is minimized. However, since there is uneven development of working class power worldwide, capitalist state power will still exist elsewhere. Capitalists will attempt to destroy any victorious communist revolution. Victorious communists will try to help workers still under the heel of the profit system

What Is A Revolution?

Under capitalism there is not "democracy for everyone" but decisive control over production and the government by a tiny minority class that owns the means of production. Whenever or however the bosses' ability to make profits is challenged, they can bring to bear their state power to squash that challenge or rebellion. While a facade of "democracy" exists, it is just that, a facade. When the chips are down what we have is a dictatorship of, by and for the bosses. This we call **the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie.**

History shows that no previous ruling class ever gave up its power peacefully or willingly. They always fought a bloody but losing battle. Given the reaction of the present ruling class to militant reform fights – such as the struggle for the shorter work day or for unionization – against which they have pulled out all stops, including murdering workers, there is ample reason to believe that this set of oppressors will fight violently to preserve their exploitative system itself. Therefore, those who feel the working class – who produces everthing of value and makes up the overwhelming majority – should rule, must put forward the concept of violently crushing the capitalist class, of outlawing both them and their profit system. There is no other way; history and the nature of the Rockefellers, Fords and Mellons give us no choice.

That is why communists fight for a **dictatorship** of the **proletariat**, under the leadership of a communist party composed of tens of millions of workers. This is the greatest expansion of democracy yet devised, since it gives the overwhelming majority the power to crush

the Nazis in Detroit, and the academic racists on college campuses. PLP and InCAR have kept up a steady attack on fascism at home, demonstrating against the concentration camps for immigrants, and exposing the betrayal of the air controllers. Working-class understanding of this role led many workers to elect a PLP member to head a local union in a Time-Life owned factory in Madison, and led an increasing percentage of hospital workers to respond similarly in other cities across the country. Unemployed auto workers are supporting the PLP/InCAR call for an InCAR union of the jobless in depression-ridden Detroit.

Although over-all the working class has been on the defensive, the bosses have not succeeded in whipping up a frenzy of anti-communism among the workers. While they have tried mightily to use the issue of Poland to "prove" that a non-existent communism there "doesn't work," they are mainly succeeding in proving to workers here that capitalism doesn't work. The initial blatant attack on Social Security was beaten back by a huge working-class outcry, but Reagan and Co. will try again. Haitian immigrant workers inside and outside a Florida concentration camp rebelled, freeing 200 of their brothers and sisters. All in all, the working class is becoming even more wide open to our Party's solution: organize to destroy capitalism and build an egalitarian communist society run by workers.

Our May Day marches represent the marshalling of all those forces ready to mobilize all-out opposition to racism, fascism, mass unemployment and imperialist war. Too many workers have been murdered by war, starved to death by world capitalism (50 million a year), ground into hopeless poverty, and pushed over the brink into physical and mental illness, to want to continue to drown in the sinking ship of capitalism.

Our May Day marches marshal all those forces ready to oppose racism, fascism, mass unemployment and imperialist wars.

But capitalism will not fall of its own weight. It must be beaten to death by an aroused working class, led by its communist party – PLP – so that it will no longer stalk the earth to starve, maim and murder workers. We must turn the guns around, turn imperialist war and capitalist economic crisis into a class war of workers against bosses, the world over. Workers and students: march under the red banners of communist revolution, the flag of the PLP! March on May Day!

The Birth Of May Day

"There will come a time when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you strangle today."

THOSE WERE THE LAST WORDS OF AUGUST Spies, on Nov. 11, 1887, as the hangman's noose was tied around his head – murdered along with three of his class brothers by the U.S. ruling class for having helped organize the working class of Chicago and the country in the fight for the 8-hour day.

It was out of that struggle that May Day was born, an event proclaiming the solidarity and common goals of the international working class. U.S. bosses have tried to portray May Day as something "imported" from "foreign" shores. Actually May Day is one of the great contributions made by U.S. workers to the struggles of the world's working class. No wonder bosses here try to bury May Day as they did the scores of workers they killed when it began.

The Chicago Central Labor Union, a center of left-wing activity, called for a general strike for the 8-hour day for May 1, 1886. May 1 came and Chicago stood still. "No smoke curled from the tall chimneys of the factories and mills," reported one paper. "Tens of thousands downed their tools and moved into the streets."

On May 3, the cops murdered six strikers at the McCormick Reaper Works. The next day thousands marched in protest into Haymarket Square. The cops attacked. A bomb was thrown (later to be revealed as most probably by a police agent). In the ensuing battle seven cops died and four workers were murdered. Over 200 were wounded in what became known as the Haymarket Massacre.

Another general strike was called for May 1, 1890, the beginning of the historic May Day working class holiday. At the July, 1889, meeting of the Second International (an international working-class organization patterned after the First International led by Karl Marx), after a report from the U.S. delegate on the 8-hour struggle, the following resolution was adopted:

"The Congress decides to organize a great international demonstration, so that in all countries and in all

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In the U.S., it is the existence of the Progressive Labor Party, a revolutionary communist party, that lays the basis for the overthrow of capitalism. PLP makes the kind of revolutionary analysis of the system that appears in these pages, in our newspaper ***Challenge-Desafío*** and in ***PL Magazine.*** PLP organizes class struggle around the fight against the bosses and shows how these struggles are tied to communist revolution. We unite all kinds of workers – black, Latin, Asian and white; men and women; young and old; immigrant and native-born – in our ranks! All these ingredients add up to the nucleus of a general staff for working class revolution.

Only a communist party that operates on the ideas put forward in this pamphlet, that functions in a democratic-centralist way, can lead the working class to its liberation. Democratic centralism is the method by which the party uses its science of Marxism-Leninism, its world view of dialectical materialism, to discuss any obstacle facing the working class and its allies. PLP brings to bear all its experience and that of its base among workers; then comes to a majority decision on a course of action and employs the full strength of ALL its members who are duty-bound to carry out that decision.

Thus, the party can operate as a solid fist on behalf of the working class, rather than as individual fingers each going their own separate ways. And, once agreed on a course of action, the party has a leadership committed to carrying out that action. We test our ideas in the class struggle, among workers and others, come back to the party, evaluate the results, engage in criticism and self-criticism of our members and actions, and arrive at a new and better course of action based on a test of our ideas in the real world. This kind of party can organize the strength of the working class to take advantage of all the insoluble contradictions that beset the opposing capitalist class, and to fight and win a revolution.

First, the bosses have brought millions of workers **together** in social production laying the basis for organization of the working class on a mass scale.

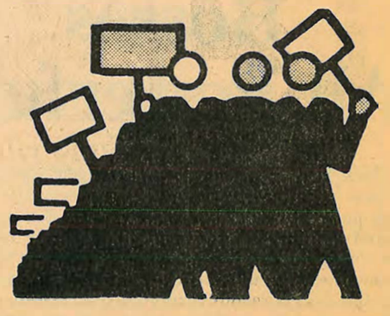
Second, the bosses themselves face **insoluble** problems in trying to maintain their own system. They cannot overcome the contradiction between themselves and the working class who they rob by their very nature. They can only turn around and mislead, but **they cannot put workers' problems to rest as long as capitalism exists.**

Third, they cannot stop rebellion. It is as old as the capitalist system itself, and has existed in every previous exploitative society. Men and women are **social** beings and have never resigned themselves to suicide in the face of obstacles to a decent life, but have always fought back.

Fourth, they have organized the manufacture of the weapons with which they can be destroyed if the guns are but turned around, which is the history of all previous revolutionary over-throws of capitalist ruling classes – the revolutionaries used the weapons taken away from the bosses themselves. With all their massive nuclear power, how reliable are their armies – **made up** mostly of workers whose class interests are the same as all workers.

Fifth, there is a body of ideas, and a history of their being carried into battle, that has created a communist revolutionary movement over 125 years old: beginning with the Communist Manifesto in 1848, and continuing through the Paris Commune, the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, the defeat of Hitlerism by the Soviet working masses, the Chinese Revolution of 1947, right through the emergence of a revolutionary communist movement here in the U.S. over the past 20 years with the growth of the Progressive Labor Party.

We have much to learn from the successes and mistakes of the past and can apply them in the future. We have the benefit of being able to trace the rise and then degeneration of revolution in the USSR and China, so that we will avoid the mistake of treating material incentives as the primary agent of progress, but rather will put forward communist ideology as the moving force of a revolution for communism.



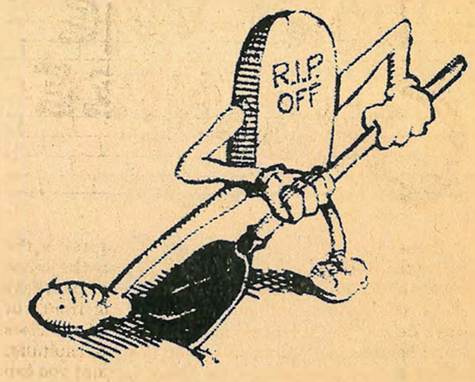
Support Workers' Struggles

Strikers at McCormick's Reaper Works attack Chicago cops during battle for eight-hour day, May 3, 1886.

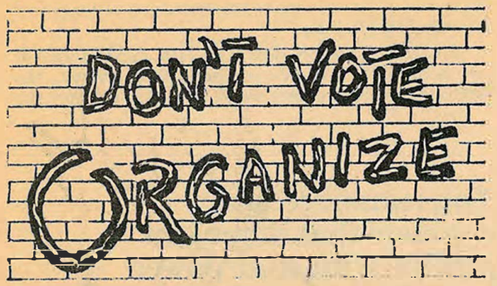
Boston May Day March, 1979

Are Bosses All-Powerful?

Given all that the bosses have going for them – control over production, the state apparatus, the mass media pushing their anti-working class ideology, and assorted traitor-flunkies in the ranks of the working class – given all this, is it possible to overthrow them, to get rid of capitalism with all its oppression of workers and others, to establish a worker-run society, of, by and for the working class and its allies? We say most definitely yes, and here's why.



CAPITALISM DIGS ITS OWN GRAVE



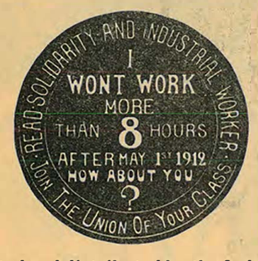
These sellouts are the "lieutenants of capital" in the ranks of the workers and their allies. They are the junior partners of Big Business, who, in exchange for their cozy nook in the system, will put on a fighting front but always deliver the workers into the arms of the class enemy, because they function on the basis of capitalist ideology and mislead people into thinking that you can reform the system. You cannot reform a system that is built on profits, with state power in the hands of the profiteers!

In a period of approaching fascism, the betrayal by the union "leaders" adds up to a lot more than simple sellout of a union contract. To defend capitalism in such a period means to destroy the unions as workers' weapons. Now the unions – in the hands of Fraser, Kirkland and Co. – have become instruments of the bosses' rule. The UAW under Fraser is giving away everything that the union won when it was a union. As the crisis hits industry after industry, this will be the role of any pro-capitalist union "leader." They are making the unions into a weapon with which they can try to force the working class to accept fascism and imperialist war – in the name of saving "our" jobs and "our" country. These social fascist union bosses are doing the dirty work of the ruling class which the latter would find a lot harder to do openly. The only alternative is a communist-led workers' movement that will do both: fight the bosses tooth and nail on every immediate issue and tie that class struggle to the fight against war and fascism and for communist revolution.

Accompanying and supporting this band of misleaders is an assortment of fake "revolutionaries" who prey on workers' desires for revolution by "calling" for revolution (and sometimes not even going that far) but always lead workers into settling for reform. These groups – which include the hopelessly sold-out "communist" party, a band of Trotskyist sects like the "Socialist Workers" Party, the "revolutionary union," etc., and some more openly police-run outfits like the U.S. "Labor" Party – all profess to some brand of "socialism" but none of them fight for a workers' dictatorship over the bosses. Rather they support one or another of the sellout reformers, trade union misleaders, nationalists, etc., and ally with other betrayers of working class revolution around the world, be it the USSR, China, or elsewhere. They do agree on one point, among others: PLP is no good and don't work with them. The feeling is mutual.

cities on one appointed day the toiling masses shall demand . . . the legal reduction of the working day to eight hours, as well as the carrying out of other decisions of the Paris Congress. Since a similar demonstration has already been decided upon by the American Federation of Labor . . . this day is accepted for the international demonstration."

On the eve of the first May Day, Frederick Engels, a close associate of Karl Marx, wrote: "As I write these lines, the proletariat of Europe and America is holding a review of its forces; it is mobilized for the first time as One army, One flag, and fight for One immediate aim: an eight-hour working day. . . The spectacle. . . will make the capitalists and land-owners of all lands realize that today the proletarians of all lands are, in very truth, united."



Sticker printed and distributed by the Industrial Workers of the World in the fight for an eight-hour day.

Throughout the years, with communists in the lead around the world, May Day came to symbolize the demands and class interests of the international working class. But, in the 1950s the U.S. Communist Party abandoned any goals for workers' power in this country and union leaders who had formerly supported and marched

May Day symbolizes the demands and class interest of the entire international working class.

on May Day betrayed the workers in an era of sellout unionism. However, the Progressive Labor Party, formed in the early 1960s, picked-up the red banners of May Day from the premature grave prepared by the bosses and their flunkies. We honor the Chicago workers who fought its first battle and we carry it forward to this day under the proclamation of the Communist Manifesto, the working class' first declaration of revolution: "Workers of the world, unite! We have nothing to lose but our chains! We have a world to win!"

What Is PLP?

The Progressive Labor Party – organizers of May Day marches this year in Washington, D.C., Detroit, Los Angeles, Houston and Seattle – is a revolutionary communist party. Our main aim is to lead the working class to seize state power and organize an egalitarian society – Communism – with the working class, producers of all value, in control of all production, distribution and services. This means wiping out the capitalist class and their profit system.

Communism's idea is for everyone to work because they **want to** work for our class, the working class, not out of the desire for monetary reward, material incentives in the form of wages. Communists champion the aboliton of the wage system, a system set up by capitalism to instill in workers the idea of "every person for her/himself." This better masks the bosses' exploitation as they grab for themselves as much as they can the value that workers produce. Communists put forward the idea of "each according to his or her need," with no need for wages or material reward. **All abundance or scarcity will be shared, based on the working class' collective decision on how to distribute the goods and services we all produce.**

REFORMISM:

While the bosses would love it if the effect of all this ruling class ideology resulted in a lack of fight-back by workers, that has never been the case. Workers have always fought back, many times in the bloodiest fashion; a history that the rulers like to keep well-hidden. So, when workers do organize a mass movement against some aspect of their oppression – in the unions against a wage freeze; among minority people against racism; among women against inequality; among immigrant workers against deportation and for decent wages and conditions; among all strata of workers, students and intellectuals against imperialist war – the ruling class wants another option besides simply naked terror to deal with it. Undisguised force only exposes them more and raises the stakes of the class struggle to a point where workers look to revolution as the solution. Enter the reformer.

In every movement the ruling class has its agents, its flunkies, as well as some who unconsciously do its bidding. They tone down the militancy of the masses, mislead, misdirect and channel all desire for change into the maintenance of the capitalist system, and generally sell out the struggle. These misleaders, in effect, say "you can get a bigger piece of the pie within the system;" that "capitalism may be bad but it's better than other systems" (meaning communism); that if you go beyond trying to reform the system, the ruling class will crush you with their mighty power; that either "you never had it so good so why complain" or "times are bad so we can't ask for *too much* right now." All these are variations on the theme of "we can make the system work for us; we can reform capitalism."

IN THE UNIONS, THIS IS THE MESSAGE OF the Kirklands, the Frasers and Winpisingers, the McBrides and Sadlowskis, the Wurfs, the Churches, the

You cannot reform a system that is built on profits, with state power in the hands of the profiteers.

Shankers and Gotbaums and the rest of the pack of traitors that control the U.S. labor movement. Among minority people it's the Shirley Chisholms, the misleaders of the NAACP and CORE, the Hatchers and Bradleys and Coleman Youngs, the Diggs and Dellums, the Chavez's, etc. In the women's movement it's the Betty Friedans and Gloria Steinems.

over whether they will ever "land a man." Yet women, historically, have fought this role, have produced some of the greatest working-class leaders, have led strikes, have led opposition to imperialist wars, and have crushed scabs on picket lines – male and female scabs.

AND EVEN AS BLACK AND LATIN WOMEN have faced the triple oppression of being exploited as workers, as minority workers, and as women, so have they been in the forefront of the struggles of the working class, from the time of slavery right through two world wars and the organization of the CIO to the fight against the slave labor of the welfare system of the 1970s.

Here, too, the bosses try to turn around these struggles of women against oppression by using capitalist ideology to pit women against men. They place the "cause" of the inequality of men rather than on capitalism which draws extra profits from it while keeping the working class divided in still another way. The ruling class especially pushes feminism, a movement usually led by middle- and upper-class women, that directs its fire against men, while putting forward the goals of placing women in the editorship of the bosses' magazines, in the bosses' Congress or on the bosses' stock exchange. That is what the capitalists would like women to have as the path for their liberation from oppression. Communists point out that this will only keep working-class women buried in a morass of boss-oriented goals while all working-class women continue to suffer the discrimination caused by capitalism as long as capitalism exists.

INDIVIDUALISM:

One of the kernels of capitalist ideology that helps maintain boss control is the idea that a person's fate is "up to the individual" and that "you have to look out for yourself, for number one" because no one else will; that you "get ahead in life by stepping on the next guy"; that "it's dog-eat-dog" in this world so "don't stick you neck out" for your neighbor because you will only get it cut off.

The bosses push this anti-collective ideology for several reasons: (a) so that workers will never blame capitalism or the ruling class for their problems but instead will look to themselves for the cause of "success or failure"; (b) so that workers will not look to unite with each other to fight toegether as a class against the bosses; (c) so that an individual worker will look at his situation as "me against the world" and feel hopeless to do anything about his/her problems or simply "leave it up to fate." This, of course, is right up the bosses' alley, since they know how to unite all their state power against the working class, especially a divided one.

JOIN PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY!

On the one hand, abundance would be more likely under communism, with the elimination of capitalism's anarchy of production, its profits, its waste and parasitic elements such as advertising, etc. Workers will have the great incentive to figure out the best, most efficient, and safest ways to produce what is needed by the working class, without fear of losing their job or life. **Everyone's work will be needed.**

On the other hand, the nuclear war being planned by the capitalist rulers of the U.S. and Russia could create conditions of scarcity, even after the communist-led working class destroys these imperialists and seizes power. But the collective will of the working class will insure that no one goes without, that the scarcity is shared, and that scarcity will be replaced by abundance based on the world-wide collective will and might of the working class.

Communism cannot be established through "conspiracy" or trickery. **Only when tens of millions of workers are won to the ideas in this pamphlet and have joined the PLP to organize for communist revolution, can a new egalitarian society, free of exploitation, be built. Under the leadership of the PLP tens of millions of communists will lead millions more in struggle** around issues vital to the working class.

The building of such a mass communist party, the PLP, will construct the most democratic, working-class rule the world has ever seen, with the approach that every worker can become a communist and each worker can share in collective decision-making. Our Party, containing tens of millions of workers and having millions of other supporters, will rule, without the need of separate "governments" which only cloud the direct rule of workers' power. (The complete vision of this future is contained in a separate manifesto issued by the PLP.)

What we do now, how we build communist ideas into our thinking and actions, will determine how we can create such a new society, through revolution, and how we can prevent a bosses' counter-revolution from reversing it. **By bringing our communist ideas openly to the working class and its allies, and in the course of battling side-by-side against the bosses, we will prove that only these ideas, and the Party that organizes around them, can create the solution to ALL workers' problems.**

Communism's idea is for everyone to work because they *want to* work for our class, the working class, not out of the desire for monetary reward.

Rebuild the Communist International

The Progressive Labor Party is trying to rebuild the international communist movement. We are doing this in the period of mounting worldwide fascism, and the approach of World War III between the Soviet and U.S. imperialists. PLP is attempting to do this despite, and by learning from, reversals of the old movement.

In the early days, this once-great movement was led by the Soviet Communist Party. When that party dropped the red flag of Marxism-Leninism, it was picked up by the Chinese Communist Party. But soon, the Chinese party went the way of the Soviets. Both parties became agents for a new class of imperialists. Around the world, various communist parties and groupings remained tied to either one of the two new capitalist countries. Unfortunately, what passed for the present communist movement became a grim reminder that only the dictatorship of the proletariat is in the real interests of the workers of the world.

Because PLP, in theory and in practice, is based on the concept of internationalism, we are out to build ●NE party. We believe that internationalism represents the future of all workers and oppressed people in the world! We oppose the idea of nations and capitalist created borders. We have always advanced the strategy of "smashing all borders." Communists cannot fight for internationalist goals and at the same time advocate "national" parties.

We believe the revolutionary process should go forward under one red flag and one ideological entity. Every area of the world should have one common universal goal for revolution: the dictatorship of the proletariat led by its communist party.

This is not a completely new idea. In the late 1940s and part of the '50s, the U.S. ruling class and other capitalist bosses railed against the idea put forward by the Stalin leadership of the Soviet Union which called for "monolithic unity" of the international communist movement. The idea that the international communist movement should have one line and one leadership sent the bosses into a wild frenzy.

SPECIAL OPPRESSION OF WOMEN:

Another big way the capitalist class divides and robs the working class is through discrimination against, and the special oppression of working class women. First there is the unequal pay for the same work. By painting women as "inferior" to men, as "belonging in the home," as "weaker," the bosses can get away with paying women less "because" they are "second" wage-earners in the family, or "they are only working for 'pin-money'" or they are "robbing men's jobs." This lower pay for women puts billions into the bosses' bank vaults and the ideology behind it keeps the working class split in still another way.

New York shirtwaist-makers march during 1909 strike. 30,000 women beat bosses and sellout union leaders, and succeeded in organizing the union.

By painting women as "inferior" to men, the bosses can get away with paying women less.

Under capitalism, the bosses put women in a "special" position of having to "keep house," and raise the children. When capitalist inflationary crisis makes it impossible for one wage-earner to support a family, women are forced to work two jobs – in the offices and factories directly for the bosses, and in the un-paid labor of the home and raising children, **which is necessary to produce future workers for the ruling class.**

After dumping all this on the backs of working-class women, they then turn around through the mass media: movies, TV, magazines, ads, etc., and paint women as sex objects, existing only to serve men, tied into knots